



June 2001

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Dam Safety Section

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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Laws

Where to Look

Persons owning or building dams should be aware that both dam safety statutes and rules may apply to the dam. Department personnel are available to assist anyone considering construction or alteration of a dam.

The Department has many maps and publications available to assist the public. Dam safety statutes are located in Arizona Revised Statutes sections 45-1201 through 45-1223. These and other Department statutes may be viewed at www.azleg.state.az.us. The Department offers every two years a soft cover book, Arizona Laws Relating to Water, through its bookstore [(602) 417-2485 or www.water.az.gov]. The dam safety statutes may also be obtained through the Dam Safety Section.

Rules

By Which We Operate

Dam safety rules (R12-15-1201 through R12-15-1226) may be obtained through the Dam Safety Section, or may be viewed in the Arizona Administrative Code at www.sosaz.com.






If the Dam Fits . . .

Jurisdiction, A.R.S. §45-1201

The Arizona Department of Water Resources, Dam Safety Section, has jurisdiction over dams 25 feet or more in height or dams that store more than 50 acre-feet of water. Some dams are excepted from jurisdiction, including (1) barriers less than 6 feet in height, regardless of storage capacity; (2) barriers that have a storage capacity of 15 acre-feet or less, regardless of height; (3) any barrier for the purpose of controlling liquid-borne material; (4) any barrier that is a release-contained barrier; and (5) any barrier that is owned, controlled, operated, maintained, or managed by the United States government as long as it is subject to a dam safety program that is at least as stringent as Arizona's.

Available Publications

The following publications may be obtained through the dam safety section:

-  Arizona's Program for Safety of Dams (Rev. 4/01)
-  Instructions for Filing an Application (Rev. 4/01)
-  Checklist of items required for a complete application (Rev. 4/01)
-  Application Form (Rev. 4/01)
-  Requirements During and Following Construction of High and Significant Hazard Dams (Rev. 4/01)